

**From:** Dan Martin  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Dan Martin  
**Subject:** ACTION ALERT! Urge the Governor to Reverse Cuts to Mental Health!  
**Importance:** High

## **ACTION ALERT**

**February 2, 2012**

**Mental health takes it on the chin again! Urge the Governor to reverse devastating cuts to mental health through the supplemental budget!**

Although the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) is grossly underfunded already, the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly appear poised to cut even more. While the Governor's FY 2013 budget offers modest increases to mental health spending achieved through new revenue from the 2011 alcohol tax, these gains are more than offset by a negligible increase to community service dollars and destructive cost containment measures that will reduce access to vital community based services for some of Maryland's most vulnerable citizens.

Already serving 140,000 plus children and adults, Maryland's PMHS projects a 6.3% increase in enrollment for the coming year. This equals between 8,000 and 10,000 new Marylanders desperate for services at a time when **community mental health funding is flat!** Add to that roughly **\$20 million in cuts to inpatient services** and a disheartening situation becomes a dire one that leaves those in need with few options.

Help us fight to protect services for family and friends living with mental illness. We must speak with a strong, sustained and unified voice and demand full funding for the public mental health system. The best avenue to restore these funds is the supplemental budget process. Our message is simple – **the public mental health system is at a breaking point and simply cannot take additional cuts without serious and dire consequences for our most vulnerable citizens.**

## **NEXT STEPS: FOCUS YOUR CALLS TO LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP!**

Below you will find contact information for the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. **Please contact these elected officials and urge them to reverse cuts to mental health through the supplemental budget!** A brief sample letter is provided for your convenience, but your message will be most effective if it is tailored by you and shares your personal feelings about the need and why this issue is important to you.

**Governor Martin O'Malley**  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925  
(410) 974-3901  
[governor@gov.state.md.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us)

Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3700  
[thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us](mailto:thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us)

Delegate Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3800  
[michael.busch@house.state.md.us](mailto:michael.busch@house.state.md.us)

If you send an email please be sure to include "Restore Cuts to Mental Health" in the subject line to ensure your message is appropriately counted.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The proposed cuts to the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) in FY 2013 would result in a brutal curtailment of services for our most vulnerable citizens. The PMHS is projected to serve between 8,000 and 10,000 more Marylanders next year at a time when community mental health funding is flat. On top of that, \$20 million in cuts to inpatient services will leave those in need with little or no options.

The PMHS, which is grossly underfunded already, is at a breaking point. Further cuts will have severe and dire consequences, including an increase in school dropout rates, suicide, homelessness and incarceration among children and adults who have the misfortune of living with a disease we continue to stigmatize.

**Please use the supplemental budget to reverse the devastating cuts to mental health funding!**

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

# MHAMD Priority/Monitor Bill List 2012

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMD Position	Bill Status
HB 34	Criminal Procedure - Discharge from Commitment of Person Previously Found Not Criminally Responsible - Judicial Hearing	Allows a court to hold a de novo hearing after an OAH decision to release a person found NCR. Currently they can only review the evidence from the OAH hearing.	Smigel	JUD	SB 298	1/17	OPPOSE	
HB 53	Higher Education - Community Colleges - Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals	Enhances Maryland's community college tuition exemption for disabled individuals by adding a waiver for continuing education instruction.	Luedtke	W&M		2/2 - 2pm	SUPPORT	
HB 68	Medical Treatment - Youth - Registered Nurses, Physician Assistants, and Licensed Clinical Social Workers	Adds registered nurses, physician assistants, and LCSWs to the list of individuals that can make medical treatment recommendations in emergency situations to which a minor can consent.	Rosenberg and Hubbard	HGO	SB 72	1/31	MONITOR	
HB 70	State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors - Examinations of Applicants and Licensees	Gives Board authority to order licensee or license applicant to undergo a mental or physical examination.	Kach	HGO	SB 14	1/26 - 1:30pm	OPPOSE	
HB 103	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Independent Foster Care Adolescents - Age of Eligibility	Provides Medicaid coverage to independent foster care adolescents under 26 y/o now before expansion of coverage in 2014 under ACA.	Pena-Melnik	HGO		1/31	SUPPORT	
HB 168	Human Relations - Housing Discrimination - Source of Income	Prohibits landlords and sellers from discriminating against prospective tenants based on the source of their income.	Lafferty	ENV	SB 277	2/9	SUPPORT	
HB 194	State Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund	Establishes a special fund to support individuals with traumatic brain injury.	McConkey	HGO	SB 577	2/7 - 1:30pm	SUPPORT	

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMD Position	Bill Status
HB 219	State Lottery - Problem Gambling Measures	Requires State lottery regulations include measures intended to reduce or mitigate the effects of problem gambling.	Kipke	W&M			SUPPORT	
HB 230	Public Safety - Department of State Police - Yellow Dot Program	Provides for a more focused emergency response after auto accidents by alerting EMTs to pertinent medical info in glove box.	K. Kelly	HGO	SB 890	2/9	SUPPORT	
HB 235	Criminal Justice Information System - Prohibited Dissemination	Prohibiting dissemination of criminal history record for nonviolent charge or conviction from 10 years ago.	Stukes	JUD		2/14	MONITOR	
HB 286	Managed Care Organizations - Medical Loss Ratio Information - Publication	Requires DHMH to publish MCO MLR data on its website.	Hubbard	HGO	SB 484	2/7 - 1:30pm	SUPPORT	
HB 382	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Health Care Facilities - Abuser Registry	Establishes a registry of health care facility employees who were terminated for abusing or neglecting patients and prevents re-employment at another health care facility.	B. Robinson	HGO	SB 316	2/16	MONITOR	
HB 426	Medical Assistance Program - Health Care for Mothers, Children, Seniors, and Individuals with Disabilities - Pilot Program	Pilot program to address shortfall of primary care practitioners in certain geographic areas.	Hubbard and Gaines	HGO	SB 593	2/14	SWA	
HB 439	Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012	Requires the Secretary of DHMH to establish Health Enterprise Zones to target state resources to reduce health disparities, improve outcomes, reduce costs and hospital readmissions in certain areas of the State.	The Speaker (By Request - Admin)	HGO	SB 234	2/28	SUPPORT	
HB 443	Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012	Bill continuing efforts to implement federal Affordable Care Act.	The Speaker (By Request - Admin)	HGO	SB 238	2/23	SWA	

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMID Position	Bill Status
HB 465	Health Insurance - Health Benefit Plan Premium Rate Review	Prohibiting insurance carrier from charging or changing a premium before the rate or rate change is filed with and approved by MIA	Hammen	HGO	SB 456	2/23	MONITOR	
HB 470	Maryland Health Care Commission - Preauthorization of Medical Services and Pharmaceuticals - Standards	Requires MHCC to adopt regs establishing standards for the preauthorization of medical services.	Tarrant	HGO	SB 540	2/23	SUPPORT	
HB 618	Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms	Establishing TF to look at options for limiting access of firearms to individuals with history of mental illness.	Simmons	JUD		2/21	OPPOSE	
HB 650	Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Educational Accomplishment	Reentry TF bill authorizing a deduction in sentence for earning a degree, diploma, etc.	Waldstreicher	JUD		3/1	SUPPORT	
HB 651	Child Support - Incarcerated Obligor - Suspension of Payments and Accrual of Arrearages	Reentry Task Force bill establishing that child support payments are not past due and arrearages do not accrue while the obligor is incarcerated.	Waldstreicher	JUD	SB 720	3/1	SUPPORT	
HB 652	Criminal Records - Shielding - Nonviolent Convictions	Reentry Task Force bill requiring criminal record shielding of nonviolent crimes after 3 yrs for a misdemeanor and 5 yrs for a felony.	Waldstreicher	JUD	SB 667	3/1	SUPPORT	
HB 679	Cultural Competency and Health Literacy - Education	Expands role of Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities by requiring collaborations with additional schools and professions.	Nathan - Pulliam	HGO			SUPPORT	
HB 759	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Health Care Delivery Systems - Pilot Program	Establishes a pilot program to determine innovative ways to provide coordinated care management to the fee-for-service Medicaid population	Hammen	HGO	SB 904	2/28	MONITOR	
HB 800	State Personnel - Applicants for Employment - Criminal History Records Checks	Reentry Task Force bill - ban the box.	Proctor	APP	SB 671		SUPPORT	

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMMD Position	Bill Status
HB 862	Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners - Certification - Modifications	Requiring the State Board to establish a tiered certification structure for residential child and youth care practitioners.	Hammen	HGO	SB 868	2/23	MONITOR	
HB 1012	Ex-Offender Business Development Program Study	Requires joint evaluation into feasibility of establishing a business development program for ex-offenders.	Pena-Melnik	HGO	SB 535	3/1	SWA	
HB 1029	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Long-Term Care Services - Eligibility	Requires Medicaid give written notice of eligibility within a certain time period. If determination not made within time allowed, applicant is presumptively eligible.	Braveboy and Alston	HGO	SB 535	2/28	SUPPORT	
HB 1149	Health Insurance - Coverage for Telemedicine Services	Requiring insurers to provide the same coverage for health care delivered in person or through telemedicine.	Lee	HGO	SB 781	3/8	SUPPORT	
HB 1176	Health Care Case Management for At-Risk Juveniles - Work Group	Requires work group to develop inventory of current policies, analyze barriers, develop inventory of resources, etc.	Valentino - Smith	HGO		2/28	SWA	
HB 1193	State Personnel - Traumatic Events - Mental Health Support Services	Provides that mental health support services shall be available to individuals affected by a traumatic event in a facility that results in a death.	Nathan - Pulliam	APP	SB 314		MONITOR	
SB 14	State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors - Examinations of Applicants and Licensees	Gives Board authority to order licensee or license applicant to undergo a mental or physical examination.	Conway	EHE	HB 70	1/17	OPPOSE	
SB 72	Medical Treatment - Youth - Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants	Adds registered nurses, physician assistants, and LCSWs to the list of individuals that can make medical treatment recommendations in emergency situations to which a minor can consent.	Kelley	FIN	HB 68	1/26 - 2pm	MONITOR	

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMMD Position	Bill Status
SB 97	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Eligibility Determinations	If no determination re Medicaid eligibility is rendered within timeline required by law, DHMH must send notice of right to appeal for failure to act with reasonable promptness and shall render an eligibility determination at the hearing.	Kelley	FIN			SUPPORT	W/D
SB 107	Criminal Law - Electronic Harassment - Penalties	Expands prohibition and penalties for using electronic communication to terrify, intimidate, or harass.	Brochin and Peters	JPR		2/2	SUPPORT	
SB 167	Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities - Sunset Repeal	Extends indefinitely the tax credit for employers who hire people with disabilities.	Currie	B&T			SUPPORT	
SB 212	Human Relations - Sexual Orientation and Gender - Antidiscrimination	Prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity with regard to public accommodations, housing, employment, etc.	Raskin	JPR		2/28	SUPPORT	
SB 234	Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012	Requires the Secretary of DHMH to establish Health Enterprise Zones to target state resources to reduce health disparities, improve outcomes, reduce costs and hospital readmissions in certain areas of the State.	The President (By Request - Admin)	FIN and B&T	HB 439	2/29	SUPPORT	
SB 238	Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012	Bill continuing efforts to implement federal Affordable Care Act.	The President (By Request - Admin)	FIN	HB 443	2/22	SWA	
SB 277	Human Relations - Housing Discrimination - Source of Income	Prohibits landlords and sellers from discriminating against prospective tenants based on the source of their income.	Raskin	JPR	HB 168	2/15	SUPPORT	

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MHAMMD Position	Bill Status
SB 298	Criminal Procedure - Discharge From Commitment of Person Previously Found Not Criminally Responsible - Judicial Hearing	Allows a court to hold a de novo hearing after an OAH decision to release a person found NCR. Currently they can only review the evidence from the OAH hearing.	Stone	JPR	HB 34	2/16	OPPOSE	
SB 311	Mental Hygiene Administration - State Facilities - Surveillance Cameras	Requires MHA to install and maintain a video surveillance system in each State facility to ensure safety of patients and staff.	Pugh	FIN			MONITOR	
SB 314	State Personnel - Traumatic Events - Mental Health Support Services	Provides that mental health support services shall be available to individuals affected by a traumatic event in a facility that results in a death.	Pugh	FIN	HB 1193	2/16	MONITOR	
SB 316	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Health Care Facilities - Abuser Registry	Establishes a registry of health care facility employees who were terminated for abusing or neglecting patients and prevents re-employment at another health care facility.	Pugh	FIN	HB 382		MONITOR	
SB 393	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Managed Care Organizations - Recipient Participation	Requiring that MA recipients 65+ y/o be given the option of remaining or enrolling in an MCO.	Middleton	FIN		2/15	MONITOR	
SB 429	Developmental Disabilities - Group Homes and Alternative Living Units - Dispersion	Limiting the number of group homes in any specific area based on population size.	Young	EHE		2/22	OPPOSE	
SB 456	Health Insurance - Health Benefit Plan Premium Rate Review	Prohibiting insurance carrier from charging or changing a premium before the rate or rate change is filed with and approved by MIA.	Middleton	FIN	HB 465	2/15	MONITOR	
SB 484	Managed Care Organizations - Medical Loss Ratio Information - Publication	Requires DHMH to publish MCO MLR data on its website.	Kelley	FIN	SB 286	2/15	SUPPORT	
SB 510	Maryland Health Insurance Plan - Denials of Eligibility for Coverage - Hearings and Appeal Process	Requires MHIP to give an individual an opportunity for a hearing before denial of coverage.	Frosh	FIN		3/7	MONITOR	



Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MI/AMND Position	Bill Status
SB 535	Ex-Offender Business Development Program Study	Requires joint evaluation into feasibility of establishing a business development program for ex-offenders.	Pugh	FIN	HB 1012	2/28	SWA	
SB 539	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Long-Term Care Services - Eligibility	Requires Medicaid give written notice of eligibility within a certain time period. If determination not made within time allowed, applicant is presumptively eligible.	Kelley and Montgomery	FIN	HB 1029	3/1	SUPPORT	
SB 540	Maryland Health Care Commission - Preauthorization of Medical Services and Pharmaceuticals - Standards	Requires MHCC to adopt regs establishing standards for the preauthorization of medical services.	Astle	FIN	HB 470	3/7	SUPPORT	
SB 577	State Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund	Establishes a special fund to support individuals with traumatic brain injury.	Reilly	FIN	HB 194	3/7	SUPPORT	
SB 593	Medical Assistance Program - Health Care for Mothers, Children, Seniors, and Individuals with Disabilities - Pilot Program	Pilot program to address shortfall of primary care practitioners in certain geographic areas.	Pinsky	FIN	HB 426	2/16	SWA	
SB 667	Criminal Records - Shielding - Nonviolent Convictions	Reentry Task Force bill requiring criminal record shielding of nonviolent crimes after 3 yrs for a misdemeanor and 5 yrs for a felony.	Jones-Rodwell	JPR	HB 652	3/1	SUPPORT	
SB 671	State Personnel - Applicants for Employment - Criminal History Records Checks	Reentry Task Force bill - ban the box.	Pugh	FIN	HB 800		SUPPORT	
SB 720	Child Support - Incarcerated Obligor - Suspension of Payments and Accrual of Arrearages	Reentry Task Force bill establishing that child support payments are not past due and arrearages do not accrue while the obligor is incarcerated.	Zirklin	JPR	HB 651	3/6	SUPPORT	
SB 781	Health Insurance - Coverage for Telemedicine Services	Requiring insurers to provide the same coverage for health care delivered in person or through telemedicine.	Pugh	FIN	HB 1149	3/7	SUPPORT	

Bill #	Name	Purpose	Sponsor	Committee	Crossfile	Hearing Date	MA/AMD Position	Bill Status
SB 817	Health Insurance - Reimbursement for Covered Services Rendered by Telemedicine	Requiring insurers to reimburse providers for covered services rendered by telemedicine.	Pipkin	FIN		3/7	SUPPORT	
SB 868	Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners - Certification - Modifications	Requiring the State Board to establish a tiered certification structure for residential child and youth care practitioners.	Conway	EHE	HB 862	2/22	MONITOR	
SB 890	Public Safety - Department of State Police - Yellow Dot Program	Provides for a more focused emergency response after auto accidents by alerting EMTs to pertinent medical info in glove box.	Stone	JPR	HB 230	2/23	SUPPORT	
SB 904	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Health Care Delivery Systems - Pilot Project	Establishes a pilot program to determine innovative ways to provide coordinated care management to the fee-for-service Medicaid population	Middleton		HB 759		MONITOR	
	<b>KEY</b>							
	APP - House Appropriations Committee							
	ECM - House Economic Matters Committee							
	ENV - House Environmental Matters Committee							
	HGO - House Health & Government Operations Committee							
	JUD - House Judiciary Committee							
	W&M - House Ways and Means Committee							
	B&T - Senate Budget and Taxation Committee							
	EHE - Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee							
	FIN - Senate Finance Committee							
	JPR - Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee							
	SVA - Support With Amendment							
	W/D - Withdrawn							